

age, and I cannot wait to see the results that her renewed efforts will bring in November.

Born in San Bernardino, California, Ms. Butler was raised in Springfield, Illinois, and moved to Chicago after high school seeking employment. During her younger years, she served in a variety of posts for the Chicago Park District.

For the last 40 years, Ms. Butler has worked as a precinct captain and assistant precinct captain for the 36th Ward. She loves reaching out to people and is willing to do whatever it takes—from placing lawn signs to driving residents to and from the grocery store—all to make her community a better place.

Alderman Banks' staff at the 36th Ward Office look toward Ms. Butler as an inspiring example of a truly dedicated public servant through her spirit of volunteerism and her commitment of time two days per week to provide assistance to the staff with correspondence, answering phones, and constituent service.

Mary Aiello, an aide to the Alderman, put it best in her description of Ms. Butler's personality and grace: "No matter where you go with her, she is always friendly, gracious and interested in helping anybody who needs or wants anything. She is always conscious of other people's needs and concerns."

Ms. Aiello also provided an example that underlines Ms. Butler's selfless dedication. Each year she is charged with the important assignment of organizing Alderman Banks' annual senior citizens' function. Instead of just relaxing and enjoying the event, Ms. Butler serves food and does everything she can do to make sure the other seniors are having a good time. She is also involved with the monthly senior citizens' meetings at the Mont Clare Baptist Church.

Ms. Butler's positive outlook and uplifting sense of humor are evident to all who know her. Although residents of the 36th Ward are often surprised to learn that the woman helping them is 91, she recently said, "They always tell me I should run for office."

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Butler for her many years of dedicated service and for the assistance she has given to so many residents of the 5th Congressional District. I hope her uplifting spirit, warm smile, and infectious personality will remain a presence in the 36th Ward for many more years to come. I am very proud to represent Nora Butler.

IN RECOGNITION OF CINCO DE MAYO

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Cinco de Mayo, an important day in the Mexican community. In recent years the holiday of Cinco de Mayo or The Fifth Of May has gained much popularity in American culture. However, it is not, as many people believe a celebration of Mexican Independence. Mexico's actual Independence Day is September 16. Cinco de Mayo memorializes the Mexican army's triumph over the French at The Battle of Puebla in 1862. Cinco de Mayo pays homage to an ill prepared militia of about 4,500 overcoming what appeared to be the in-

surmountable well outfitted French army of 6,500 soldiers. This victory was a glorious moment in Mexican history, thus Cinco de Mayo is remembered.

Cinco de Mayo's increased popularity is apparent in the innumerable celebrations along the U.S.-Mexico border and in parts of the U.S. that have a high population of people with a Mexican heritage. In these areas the holiday is a celebration of Mexican culture, of food, music, beverage and customs unique to Mexico. This date provides me with a welcome opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions being made by the growing Mexican-American communities across the United States. We in New York City and in my community are benefiting from the dynamic presence of this vibrant culture.

It is important that on this day of remembrance that we do not let the message of triumph in the face of adversity be overridden by festivals, food, and music. Let us never forget the great contributions that Mexican-Americans have made and continue to make to our nation. Their presence is apparent in politics, arts, athletics, entertainment, military excellence, science, culinary arts, and embedded in the American language.

On this important day we must recognize that the Mexican-American contribution to our nation is similar to the many other immigrant groups that came to our great nation with the same hopes of self-betterment and the pursuit of the American Dream. On Thanksgiving we commemorate the Pilgrims and Native Americans overcoming the harshness of winter and settlement into the New World, which speaks to the overcoming the seemingly insuperable.

Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the power of faith in the face of adversity. It is rooted in our nation's history that in order to achieve greatness we must find the power within ourselves and never give up. If we are able to work hard and never lose faith then the sky is the limit. It is this exact belief that Cinco de Mayo truly embodies. Thus, this date has yet to receive the official recognition that it deserves. I sincerely hope and believe that one day Cinco de Mayo will be a designated national holiday.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT—IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Colonial Heights Fire Department, in celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

The Colonial Heights Fire Department was organized in 1929, and operated with 12 volunteers. The first Fire Chief was Benjamin Keys. Today there are 45 career personnel and 35 volunteers for the department. The fire department has been instrumental in saving lives during times of natural disasters, as well as other disastrous occasions.

The fire department has worked closely with the community to ensure the best quality of care for the citizens of Colonial Heights. In times of disaster, the community has been able to rely on the dedicated and dependable men and women of the fire department. In

1982, the Colonial Heights Fire Department was instrumental in the evacuation of North Elementary School, and the chemical cleanup that ensued for two weeks.

When other agencies are unable to respond, the fire department ensures that the citizen's emergencies are given proper attention. With the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services in 1987, the fire department has been able to expand the services that it provides. Prior to 1987 the department received approximately 300–350 calls per year. Over 7,000 calls were received last year related to medical needs, public service and fire assistance.

In addition to the life saving efforts of the Colonial Heights Fire Department, two scholarship programs have been established for students wanting to pursue careers in either a medical or fire fighting related field. In recognition of their many valiant efforts, the fire department has been recognized by the American Legion, the Optimist and the Moose.

Throughout the 75 years of operation in Colonial Heights, the fire department has been persistent in delivering quality care and service to those in need. The community has benefited immensely from the Colonial Heights Fire Department's resounding success, and distinguished years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Colonial Heights Fire Department in celebration of their 75th Anniversary of loyal and dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHET ALLEN

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chet Allen of Grand Junction, Colorado. His efforts and vision earned his business, Boomers nightclub on Main Street in Grand Junction, the designation "The Best of the West places to go for people over thirty" by Daily Sentinel readers. Since opening Boomers in 2002, Chet has helped revitalize Main Street, as well as spread his love of Blues, Jazz, and art, all of which figure prominently in Boomers atmosphere.

Chet came to Grand Junction in 1981 as an engineer for the Rio Grande Zephyr Railroad. He and his wife Janet fell in love with the town and decided to stay, but felt the town was somewhat lacking in nightlife. In 2000, he and his wife purchased and renovated an old furniture warehouse on Main Street, expecting to lease it to someone who would turn it into a downtown hotspot. When the first tenants failed, Chet and Janet took the task upon themselves, and thanks to their responsiveness to the community needs, Boomers has thrived since opening in September 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Chet Allen before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his vision and determination, he has made remarkable contributions to his community. I sincerely thank him for his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.